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CONFIDENTIAL

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Turkey

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DATE:  
INFO.

SUBJECT League for the Rights of Man

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DIST.

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

This document is hereby regraded to  
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1. For some time past the Democratic Party has contemplated the establishment in Istanbul of a League for the Rights of Man, similar to the institution under the same name which exists in Paris. Celal Bayar, the leader of the Party, headed this project, and the Chairman of the Istanbul Branch of the Party, Professor Kenan Ömer, had even applied to the Union Française at Beyoğlu for permission to establish the headquarters of the League in the Club's premises. This was really a request for hospitality in anticipation of the local group's ultimate plans for soliciting an affiliation with the central organization in Paris [redacted] which stated that the French Ambassador to Turkey had turned down the request, inasmuch as the members of the Union Française did not wish to become involved in Turkish internal affairs).
2. Meanwhile, Celal Bayar resigned as leader of the movement, and Marshal Fevzi Çakmak succeeded him as Chairman. The group immediately adopted an attitude hostile to the government. Leading members of the new organization included such men as Dr. Tevfik Rüşü Aras, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is an opponent of the government and of the People's Party and who has been completely eliminated from politics; two newspaper men, Zekaria Sertel, director of Tan, and Cevat Bayraktar, chief editor of Yeni Dünya and of La Turquie, the printing shops of which were destroyed during the anti-communist manifestation on 4 December 1945; and two retired generals, Sadik Aldoghan and Cemaleddine Elip.
3. Officially the League claims that it neither belongs to nor sponsors any political party. Anyone, in fact, may join the League, regardless of the political party with which he may be affiliated.
4. Under the provisions of the new Law governing associations, the establishment of the above organization cannot be prevented. However, before the previous government had resigned, it established, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, a similar association in Ankara which has a more official character, inasmuch as it includes among its founders Cemal Feridun Erkin, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and his assistant, Fuad Carim, as well as Nihat Erim, deputy from Kocaeli and member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Grand National Assembly. The chairman of the Ankara Association is Nazim Poroy, deputy from Tokat and President of the Turkish Group of the International Parliamentary Association. Other members are Siddik Sami Onak, President of the University of Istanbul; Zeki Messud Aslan, Dean of the Law Academy of Ankara; and Baha Kantar, Professor of Penal Law. They plan to notify the UN of the foundation of the Ankara association.

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5. It is anticipated that the activities of the two associations, the one established in Istanbul and the other one in Ankara, will differ widely, but the government evidently desired to announce their respective foundations simultaneously, in order to forestall any impression that the Istanbul group intends acting in opposition to the government.
6. Marshal Fevzi Çakmak announced that an extraordinary meeting would be held by the Istanbul group, at which he would outline the principles and the aims of the association. A young university student, delegated by the People's Party to attend the meeting, asked the Marshal to explain how he as a patriot and a nationalist could collaborate with the leftist elements which were among the founders of the League, implying, of course, by this question, Dr. Tevfik Rüştü Aras, Zekeria Sertel, and Cami Baykurt. Marshal Fevzi Çakmak replied that the League had no political aims, that anyone could join it regardless of his party affiliations, and that it merely aimed at fighting injustices to individuals. This remark prompted the university student to explain that the demonstrations of 4 December 1945 were organized by members of the student body for patriotic motives. To this Zekeria Sertel replied that his printing shop had not been destroyed by university students, but by the Turkish police. At this point Aras left the hall, to avoid becoming involved in the discussion.
7. Following the meeting and the publication of an article in the Cumhuriyet dealing with the above incident, Marshal Fevzi Çakmak called a meeting at his home in Erenköy at which the founders of the Istanbul League were present. He explained to those present that, since the association had been qualified as a leftist and even as a communistic institution and was being attacked by the youth of the university, he had decided to withdraw. Consequently, the association may be dissolved, since none of the other members are willing to assume the chairmanship.

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